IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

transmitting information indicative of a time required for an initialization of a respective one of at least two peripheral devices from each of said at least two peripheral devices to a host device;

electrically combining said information from each of said at least two peripheral devices to produce combined information indicating a time which is required at the most by any of said at least two peripheral devices for its respective initialization; and

using evaluating said combined information for obtaining a common initialization timeout value for said at least two peripheral devices.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said information indicative of said time required for said initialization of said respective one of said at least two peripheral devices is an information indicative of said time required for said initialization of said respective one of said at least two peripheral devices at a maximum under regular circumstances.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least two peripheral devices transmits said information to said host device upon a predetermined command received from said host device.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said host device uses said common initialization timeout value evaluates said combined information for adapting a polling frequency which is to be employed for polling at least one of said at least two peripheral devices on whether said at least one peripheral device has completed its respective initialization.

5.   (CANCELLED)

6.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least two peripheral devices is a memory card.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said method is implemented in a ~~MultiMediaCard~~ system comprising a media card, a media card controller, and a bus.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said at least two peripheral devices transmits said information to said host device upon receipt of a CMD1 command from said host device.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said at least two peripheral devices retrieves said information from an operating condition register of said at least one peripheral device, which operating condition register stores data and in addition said information.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said at least two peripheral devices transmits said information in an R3 response to said host device, which R3 response includes data and in addition said information.

11.   (Currently Amended) A host device comprising:

~~an interface configured to interact with at least two peripheral devices; and~~

a bus ~~control component~~ configured to receive from at least two peripheral devices ~~via said interface~~ an information indicative of a time required at a respective one of said at least two peripheral devices for its respective initialization and ~~,~~ configured to electrically combine said information to produce combined information indicating a time which is required at the most by any of said at least two peripheral devices for its respective initialization;[[,]] ~~and~~

an interface configured to interact with at least two peripheral devices via said bus; and

a control component configured to receive said combined information via said interface from said bus and to use ~~evaluate~~ said combined information for obtaining a common initialization timeout value for said at least two peripheral devices.

12.   (CANCELLED)

13.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising a host device and at least two peripheral devices,

each of said at least two peripheral devices including:

a first interface configured to interact with said host device;

a storing component configured to store information indicative of a time required at a respective peripheral device for a respective initialization; and

a controlling component configured to retrieve information indicative of said time required at said respective peripheral device for said respective initialization from said storing component and configured to transmit said information via said first interface to said host device;

and said host device including:

~~a second interface configured to interact with said at least two peripheral devices;~~ ~~and~~

a bus ~~control component~~ configured to receive from said at least two peripheral devices ~~via said second interface~~ said information indicative of said time required at said respective peripheral device for its respective initialization and ~~,~~ configured to electrically combine said information to produce combined information indicating a time which is required at the most by any of said at least two peripheral devices for its respective initialization;[[,]] ~~and~~

a second interface configured to interact with said at least two peripheral devices via said bus; and

a control component configured to receive said combined information via said second interface from said bus and to use ~~evaluate~~ said combined information for obtaining a common initialization timeout value for said at least two peripheral devices.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor, wherein said computer program code comprises instructions for performing a method comprising:

receiving ~~information from a respective one of at least two peripheral devices indicative of a respective time required by said respective one peripheral device for an initialization;~~

~~combining said information to produce~~ combined information indicating a time which is required at the most by any of ~~said~~ at least two peripheral devices _for its respective initialization_ ~~for its respective initialization~~; and

~~evaluating~~ _using_ said combined information _for obtaining a common initialization timeout value for said at least two peripheral devices._

15. (CANCELLED)

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein transmitting information indicative of said time required for an initialization of a respective one of said at least two peripheral devices from each of said at least two peripheral devices _via a bus_ to said host device is performed in an open drain mode of said _bus_ ~~host device~~.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a _bus_ ~~control module~~ configured to _electrically_ combine information indicative of a time required for an initialization of a respective one of at least two peripheral devices from each of said at least two peripheral devices to produce combined information indicating a time which is required at the most by any of said at least two peripheral devices for its respective initialization; and

a _control_ component ~~module~~ configured to _use_ ~~evaluate~~ said combined information _for obtaining a common initialization timeout value for said at least two peripheral devices._

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:

a <u>control</u> module configured to provide a predetermined command for

transmission to at least one of said at least two peripheral devices.

19.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

       means for <u>electrically</u> combining information indicative of a time required for an

initialization of a respective one of at least two peripheral devices from each of said at least

two peripheral devices to produce combined information indicating a time which is

required at the most by any of said at least two peripheral devices for its respective

initialization; and

       means for <u>using</u> ~~evaluating~~ said combined information <u>for obtaining a common</u>

<u>initialization timeout value for said at least two peripheral devices</u>.

20.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:

       means for providing a predetermined command for transmission to at least one of

said at least two peripheral devices<u>.</u>